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| 10/691,888 | 10/23/2003 | Timothy P. McKee | MFCP.110115 | 8996 |
| 45809 7590 05/02/2007 SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. (c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 2555 GRAND BOULEVARD KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613 | | | EXAMINER LE, MIRANDA | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,888

Applicant(s)

MCKEE ET AL.

Examiner

Miranda Le

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/08/2007 has been entered.
2. This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 02/08/2007.

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 13, 18, 25 are independent claims. In the Amendment, claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, 11, 13, 15-16, 18, 21, 23-25, 28 have been amended. This action is made non-Final.
3. The objection to claim 17 has been withdrawn in view of the amendment.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because they fail to show necessary textual labels of features or symbols in Fig. 2B as described in the specification. For example, placing a label, "root directory", with elements 212, would give the viewer necessary detail to fully understand this element at a glance. A *descriptive* textual label for *numbered elements* 214, 216, 220 in this figure would be needed to fully and better understand these figures without substantial analysis of the detailed specification. Any structural detail that is of sufficient importance to be described should be shown in the drawing. Optionally, applicant may wish to include a table next to the present figure to fulfill this requirement. See 37 CFR 1.83. 37 CFR 1.84(n)(o) is recited below:

Art Unit: 2167

"(n) Symbols. Graphical drawing symbols may be used for conventional elements when appropriate. The elements for which such symbols and labeled representations are used must be adequately identified in the specification. Known devices should be illustrated by symbols which have a universally recognized conventional meaning and are generally accepted in the art. Other symbols which are not universally recognized may be used, subject to approval by the Office, if they are not likely to be confused with existing conventional symbols, and if they are readily identifiable.

(o) Legends. Suitable descriptive legends may be used, or may be required by the Examiner, where necessary for understanding of the drawing, subject to approval by the Office. They should contain as few words as possible."

Specification

5. The following is a quote in part of MPEP 608.01(p), concerning the incorporation of subject matter by reference:

"The Commissioner has considerable discretion in determining what may or may not be incorporated by reference in a patent application. *General Electric Co. v. Brenner*, 407 F.2d 1258, 159 USPQ 335 (D.C. Cir. 1968). The incorporation by reference practice with reference to applications which issue as U.S. patents provides the public with a patent disclosure which minimizes the public's burden to search for and obtain copies of documents incorporated by reference which may not be readily available. Through the Office's incorporation by reference policy the Office ensures that reasonably complete disclosures are published as U.S. patents. The following is the manner in which the Commissioner has elected to exercise that discretion.

An application as filed must be complete in itself in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112. Material nevertheless may be incorporated by reference, *Ex parte Schwarze*, 151 USPQ 426 (Bd. App. 1966). An application for a patent when filed may incorporate "essential material" by reference to (1) a U.S. patent or (2) a pending U.S. application, subject to the conditions set forth below.

"Essential material" is defined as that which is necessary to (1) describe the claimed invention, (2) provide an enabling disclosure of the claimed invention, or (3) describe the best mode (35 U.S.C. 112). In any application which is to issue as a U.S. patent, essential material may not be incorporated by reference to (1) patents or applications published by foreign countries or a regional patent office, (2) non-patent publications, (3) a U.S. patent or application which itself incorporates "essential material" by reference, or (4) a foreign application.

Nonessential subject matter may be incorporated by reference to (1) patents or applications published by the United States or foreign countries or regional patent offices, (2) prior filed, commonly owned U.S. applications, or (3) non-patent publications. Nonessential subject matter is subject matter referred to for purposes of indicating the background of the invention or illustrating the state of the art.

Mere reference to another application, patent, or publication is not an incorporation of anything therein into the application containing such reference for the purpose of the disclosure required by 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. *In re de Seversky*, 474 F.2d 671, 177 USPQ 144, (CCPA 1973). In addition to other requirements for an application, the referencing application should include an identification of the referenced patent, application, or publication. Particular attention should be directed to specific portions of the referenced document where the subject matter being incorporated may be found. Guidelines for situations where applicant is permitted to fill in a number for Serial No. _____ left blank in the application as filed can be found in *In re Fouche*, 439 F.2d 1237, 169 USPQ 429 (CCPA 1971)

(Abandoned applications less than 20 years old can be incorporated by reference to same extent as copending applications; both types are open to public upon referencing application issuing as a patent)."

The disclosure on pp. 1 is objected to because some of the applications have no US Patent Application Serial Numbers issued by the USPTO for the purpose of cross-referencing. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,557), in view of Cosic (U.S. Patent No. 7,117,225).

As per claim 1, Sullivan teaches a computer system for presenting related items in a data storage device to a user, the system comprising:

a data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*) containing a plurality of items (*i.e. for multiple application programs, documents and/or data files (hereinafter collectively designated "items"), (col. 3, lines 14-26)*) stored in accordance with a data schema

and containing relational information corresponding to at least a portion of said plurality of items (*i.e. a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*), wherein the relational information allows relationships between two or more the plurality of items to be determined (*i.e. each software suite has associated therewith a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*), wherein said data storage device utilizes said relational information to delete one or more items from the data storage device in response to a change in at least a portion of said relationships (*i.e. The user could similarly choose to deinstall the application and remove the icon from the display. In this instance all files recorded in the storage element that are associated with the icon would be deleted and the icon itself would be deleted, col. 11, lines 3-33*); and

a shell (*i.e. graphical display element, col. 5, lines 1-21*) for presenting said plurality of items to a user wherein the shell is configured to present a selected item to a user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32*) and is further configured to utilize said relational information to present one or more items (*i.e. As used herein, the term "software suite" refers to a compound computer display object that provides a single integrated visual representation of multiple application programs or files, hereinafter collectively referred to as "items." FIG. 1A illustrates one method by which a software suite of the present invention may*

Art Unit: 2167

be accessed, col. 5, lines 1-21) in said data storage device which are related to said selected item (i.e. Yet another technical advantage achieved with the invention is that it enables a user to conceptualize and manage a collection of items as a single title, thereby simplifying the user's mental model of the system, col. 4, lines 26-29).

Sullivan does not specifically teach universal data.

Cosic teaches a universal data storage device (*i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45).*

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art having the teaching of Sullivan and Cosic at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sullivan to include the limitations as taught by Cosic.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make this combination in order to allow multiple users to access, manage, and manipulate data within each of the multiple standard database management systems in view of Cosic (*col.2, lines 51-56*), as doing so would give the added benefit of manipulating data on plural different types of remote databases as taught by Cosic (*col. 2, lines 40-45*).

As per claim 9, Sullivan teaches a computer-implemented method for presenting related items in a data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*) to a user, the method comprising:

accessing data in said data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*), wherein said data storage device stores a plurality of items (*i.e. for multiple application programs, documents and/or data files (hereinafter collectively designated "items"), (col. 3, lines 14-26)*) in accordance with a data schema, and wherein at least a portion of said plurality of items contain relational information which allows relationships between said plurality of items to be determined (*i.e. As used herein, the term "software suite" refers to a compound computer display object that provides a single integrated visual representation of multiple application programs or files, hereinafter collectively referred to as "items." FIG. 1A illustrates one method by which a software suite of the present invention may be accessed, col. 5, lines 1-21*);

utilizing said relational information to determine a relationship between a selected item (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32*) and one or more of the items containing said relational information in the data storage device (*i.e. Yet another technical advantage achieved with the invention is that it enables a user to conceptualize and manage a collection of items as a single title, thereby simplifying the user's mental model of the system, col. 4, lines 26-29*);

displaying said selected item and one or more related items to the user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32, Figs. 1A, 1B*);

receiving a user input causing a change (*i.e. The user could similarly choose to deinstall the application and remove the icon from the display, col. 11, lines 3-33*) in said relationship (*i.e. the user may copy or move icons between software suites or to a location external to the system*

of the present invention, for example, a desktop, while maintaining with the icon(s) all contextual information stored relative to that icon, col. 3, lines 53-67); and

deleting at least one of said plurality of items from said data storage device in response to said change (*i.e. The user could similarly choose to deinstall the application and remove the icon from the display. In this instance all files recorded in the storage element that are associated with the icon would be deleted and the icon itself would be deleted, col. 11, lines 3-33*).

Sullivan does not specifically teach universal data.

Cosic teaches a universal data storage device (*i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art having the teaching of Sullivan and Cosic at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sullivan to include the limitations as taught by Cosic.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make this combination in order to allow multiple users to access, manage, and manipulate data within each of the multiple standard database management systems in view of Cosic (*col.2, lines 51-56*), as doing so would give the added benefit of manipulating data on plural different types of remote databases as taught by Cosic (*col. 2, lines 40-45*).

As per claim 13, Sullivan teaches one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for presenting related items in a data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*) to a user, the method comprising:

accessing data in said data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*), wherein said data storage device stores a plurality of items in accordance with a data scheme (*i.e. a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*), and wherein at least a portion of said plurality of items contain relational information which allows relationships between two or more of said plurality of items to be determined, wherein at least a portion of said relationships designate one or more source items and one or more target items (*i.e. each software suite has associated therewith a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*);

utilizing said relational information to determine a relationship between a selected item (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32*) and one or more of the items containing said relational information in the data storage device (*i.e. Yet another technical advantage achieved with the invention is that it enables a user to conceptualize and manage a collection of items as a single title, thereby simplifying the user's mental model of the system, col. 4, lines 26-29*);

presenting said selected item and one or more related items to the user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32, Figs. 1A, 1B*);

receiving a user input (*i.e. user input and further enables user input to be applied to the graphic representation the group of items, i.e., the icon(s) and or software suite without requiring knowledge on the part of the user of individual files and storage locations and without requiring the use of external deinstallation/reinstallation utility programs, col. 6, lines 56 to col. 7, line 2*) altering at least one of said one or more source items or altering at least a portion of said relationships (*i.e. the system enables a user, with minimal input, to initiate certain operations simultaneously upon all of the items represented in the software suite col. 3, lines 36-52*); and

deleting at least one of said one or more target items from said data store if said at least one target item is not related to at least one of said one or more source items (*i.e. The user could similarly choose to deinstall the application and remove the icon from the display. In this instance all files recorded in the storage element that are associated with the icon would be deleted and the icon itself would be deleted, col. 11, lines 3-33*).

Sullivan does not fairly teach universal data.

Cosic teaches a universal data storage device (*i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art having the teaching of Sullivan and Cosic at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sullivan to include the limitations as taught by Cosic.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make this combination in order to allow multiple users to access, manage, and manipulate data within each of the multiple standard database management systems in view of Cosic (*col.2, lines 51-56*), as doing so would give the added benefit of manipulating data on plural different types of remote databases as taught by Cosic (*col. 2, lines 40-45*).

As per claim 18, Sullivan teaches a shell for presenting related items in a data storage device to a user, the shell comprising:

a data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*) interaction component which retrieves data associated with one or more items from the data storage device (*i.e. a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*), wherein said one or more items are stored in accordance with a data schema and at least a portion of said one or more items contain relational information that allows relationships between two or more items to be determined (*i.e. each software suite has associated therewith a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*);

a related item presentation component which utilizes said retrieved data to present related items to a user (*i.e. the system enables a user, with minimal input, to initiate certain operations simultaneously upon all of the items represented in the software suite col. 3, lines 36-52*), wherein the relationship presentation component is configured to present a selected item to a user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32, Figs. 1A, 1B*) and is further configured to utilize said relational information to present one or more items in said data storage device which are related to said selected item (*i.e. each software suite has associated therewith a storage element in which is stored contextual information for defining the appearance and behavior of the software suite window and the icons displayed therein and for identifying the locations of files associated with the icons, col. 3, lines 27-35*).

Sullivan does not teach:

universal data;

wherein at least a portion of said relationships has associated life-time management semantics time;

an item life-time management control which utilizes said associate life-time management semantics to delete one or more items from the universal data storage device in response to a change in at least a portion of said relationships.

Cosic teaches:

a universal data storage device (*i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual*

interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45)

wherein at least a portion of said relationships has associated life-time management semantics time (*i.e. if the inactivity time is less than the allowed inactivity time (e.g., 15 minutes), the UDMI Engine Program updates the corresponding user's session record in the LastVisited column with the new "last" time (expressed in seconds since 1970) the user executed an UDMI function, col. 13, lines 63-67*);

an item life-time management control which utilizes said associate life-time management semantics to delete one or more items from the universal data storage device in response to a change in at least a portion of said relationships (*i.e. if the inactivity time is longer than the allowed inactivity time, the UDMI Engine Program 1000 deletes the user's session record, and presents a "you have been inactive for too long" message through GUI. The user then has an option to go to the initial login screen, col. 14, lines 1-5*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art having the teaching of Sullivan and Cosic at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sullivan to include the limitations as taught by Cosic.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make this combination in order to delete the user's session record in view of Cosic (*col. 14, lines 1-5*), as doing so would give the added benefit of manipulating data on plural different types of remote databases as taught by Cosic (*col. 2, lines 40-45*).

As per claim 25, Sullivan teaches a computer system for presenting related items in a data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*) to a user, the method comprising:

means for accessing data in said data storage device (*i.e. storage media 20, col. 5, lines 1-21*), wherein said data storage device stores a plurality of items (*i.e. for multiple application programs, documents and/or data files (hereinafter collectively designated "items"), (col. 3, lines 14-26)* in accordance with a data scheme, and wherein at least a portion of said plurality of items contain relational information which allows relationships between said plurality of items to be determined (*i.e. As used herein, the term "software suite" refers to a compound computer display object that provides a single integrated visual representation of multiple application programs or files, hereinafter collectively referred to as "items." FIG. 1A illustrates one method by which a software suite of the present invention may be accessed, col. 5, lines 1-21*);

means for utilizing said relational information to determine a relationship between a selected item (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32*) and one or more of the items containing said relational information in the data storage device (*i.e. Yet another technical advantage achieved with the invention is that it enables a user to conceptualize and manage a collection of items as a single title, thereby simplifying the user's mental model of the system, col. 4, lines 26-29*);

means for displaying said selected item and one or more related items to the user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents., col. 7, lines 22-32, Figs. 1A, 1B*);

means for receiving a user input causing a change (*i.e. The user could similarly choose to deinstall the application and remove the icon from the display, col. 11, lines 3-33*) in said relationship (*i.e. the user may copy or move icons between software suites or to a location external to the system of the present invention, for example, a desktop, while maintaining with the icon(s) all contextual information stored relative to that icon, col. 3, lines 53-67*); and

means for deleting at least one of said plurality of items from said data storage device in response to said change (*i.e. The user could similarly choose to deinstall the application and remove the icon from the display. In this instance all files recorded in the storage element that are associated with the icon would be deleted and the icon itself would be deleted, col. 11, lines 3-33*).

Sullivan does not specifically teach universal data.

Cosic teaches a universal data storage device (*i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art having the teaching of Sullivan and Cosic at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Sullivan to include the limitations as taught by Cosic.

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make this combination in order to allow multiple users to access, manage, and manipulate data within each of the multiple standard database management systems in view of Cosic (*col.2, lines 51-56*), as doing so would give the

Art Unit: 2167

added benefit of manipulating data on plural different types of remote databases as taught by Cosic (*col. 2, lines 40-45*).

As to claims 2, 19, 26, Sullivan teaches the relational information corresponding to one or more of said plurality of items includes a set of item characteristics (*i.e. the name of and general information concerning the software product, and a list of all files installed when the software product was installed, regardless of their location, and can deinstall or reinstall the entire software product with minimal effort, col. 3, lines 36-52*).

As to claims 3, 27, Sullivan teaches said shell is configured to present one or more of said set of item characteristics to a user (*i.e. Such actions include displaying the directory in which the software product has been installed; displaying the name of the software product and general product information; displaying a list of all files installed when the software product was installed, regardless of their location; and deinstalling and reinstalling a software product, col. 7, lines 12-21*).

As per claim 4, Sullivan teaches said shell is configured to accept a user input representing a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device having one of said item characteristics (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI*

clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).

As per claim 5, Sullivan teaches said shell is configured to present one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said item characteristics (*i.e. a compound computer display object that provides a single integrated visual representation, via a "software suite window," for multiple application programs, documents and/or data files (hereinafter collectively designated "items"), which are represented in the suite window by icons. In addition, a software suite window may contain iconized representations of other software suites (col. 3, lines 14-26).*

As per claim 6, Sullivan teaches the shell is configured to present at least a portion of said relational information (*i.e. a compound computer display object that provides a single integrated visual representation, via a "software suite window," for multiple application programs, documents and/or data files (hereinafter collectively designated "items"), which are represented in the suite window by icons. In addition, a software suite window may contain iconized representations of other software suites (col. 3, lines 14-26).*

As per claim 7, Sullivan teaches the shell is configured to accept a user input representing a selection to view items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some*

action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).

As per claim 8, Sullivan teaches said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics associated with the selected item and wherein said user input represents a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said set of item characteristics with the selected item *(i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

As to claims 10, Sullivan teaches the displaying of said selected item and one or more related items includes displaying at least a portion of said relational information to a user *(i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the*

icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).

As to claims 11, Sullivan teaches said method further comprises receiving a user input representing a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

As per claim 12, Sullivan teaches the displaying of said selected item and one or more related items is responsive to said input (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special*

information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).

As per claim 14, Sullivan teaches the relational information includes a set of item characteristics *(i.e. the name of and general information concerning the software product, and a list of all files installed when the software product was installed, regardless of their location, and can deinstall or reinstall the entire software product with minimal effort, col. 3, lines 36-52).*

As per claim 15, Sullivan teaches accessing data in said data storage device is in response to a user input representing a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item *(i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

Cosic teaches a universal data storage device *(i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45).*

As per claim 16, Sullivan teaches said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics associated with the selected item and wherein said user input represents a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which share one or more item characteristics with the selected item (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

As per claim 17, Sullivan teaches the presenting of said selected item and one or more related items includes presenting at least a portion of said relational information to a user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

As per claim 20, Sullivan teaches said related item presentation component is configured to present one or more of said set of item characteristics to a user (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

As per claim 21, Sullivan teaches said related item presentation component is configured to present one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said item characteristics (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

As per claim 22, Sullivan teaches the related item presentation component is configured to present at least a portion of said relational information (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it*

represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).

As per claim 23, Sullivan teaches the shell is configured to accept a user input representing a selection to view items in the data storage device which are related to said selected item *(i.e. user input and further enables user input to be applied to the graphic representation the group of items, i.e., the icon(s) and or software suite without requiring knowledge on the part of the user of individual files and storage locations and without requiring the use of external deinstallation/reinstallation utility programs, col. 6, lines 56 to col. 7, line 2).*

As per claim 24, Sullivan teaches said relational information corresponding to the selected item includes a set of item characteristics associated with the selected item and wherein said user input *(i.e. user input and further enables user input to be applied to the graphic representation the group of items, i.e., the icon(s) and or software suite without requiring knowledge on the part of the user of individual files and storage locations and without requiring the use of external deinstallation/reinstallation utility programs, col. 6, lines 56 to col. 7, line 2)* represents a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device which share one of said set of item characteristics with the selected item *(i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it*

represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).

As per claim 28, Sullivan teaches said means for accessing data in said data storage device interacts with said data storage device in response to a user input representing a selection to view one or more items in the data storage device having one of said item characteristics (*i.e. the user can select or specify one or more individual icons in order to effect some action on the individual icon(s) and the item(s) it represents. These actions include, for example deleting the icon and the item it represents, moving or copying the icon and the item it represents to another location, placing the icon and the item it represents on the GUI clipboard, running the executable program assigned to the icon; and displaying special information or any special status of the item, such as setup program, multimedia content, main executable, help file, etc., col. 7, lines 22-32).*

Cosic teaches a universal data storage device (*i.e. a universal data management interface (UDMI) system. This aspect includes a processing system that executes instructions to generate a visual interface through which a user can access, manage, and manipulate data on plural different types of remote databases, col. 2, lines 40-45).*

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments regarding "the collections of Horn do not equate to the universal data storage device" as amended in the independent claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham, can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax number to this Art Unit is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Miranda Le
April 27, 2007